AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting data packets in a packet stream, the data packets having compressed headers, said method comprising:

compressing a header using a context;

transmitting at least one update packet which updates the context;

transmitting at least one non-update packet which does not update the context;

detecting an irregular change of the packet stream;

determining at least one packet stream parameter; and

transmitting, depending on the determined at least one packet stream parameter, either an extended update packet containing information about the irregular change if the determined at least one packet stream parameter fulfills a predetermined condition; and or

transmitting an extended non-update packet containing information about the irregular change if the determined at least one packet stream parameter does not fulfill the predetermined condition, wherein the extended non-update packet is not used to update the context.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the packet stream parameter is the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein said method further comprises entering a context update phase if the number of packets sent since the last update phase is larger than the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the maximum number of consecutive packet loss is estimated by extracting a sequence number from a received non-acknowledgement message and comparing the extracted sequence number with the current sequence number.

5.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the number of extended update packets is set dependent on the packet stream parameter.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein said determining of the at least one packet stream parameter includes obtaining the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said method further comprises comparing the maximum number of consecutive packet loss and the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid, and transmitting extended update packets only if the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid is larger than the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid is estimated by checking a RTP Payload Type field and accessing a codec look-up table.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid has been estimated by retrieving observed packet stream properties.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises applying a safety factor to the determined at least one packet stream parameter.

11.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transmitting data packets in a packet stream, the data packets having compressed headers, said apparatus comprising:
        a compressor for compressing a header using a context;
        a transmission unit for transmitting at least one update packet containing data indicating the context, wherein said transmission unit is adapted to transmit at least one non-update packet;
        a detection unit for detecting an irregular change of the packet stream; and
        a control unit for determining at least one packet stream parameter;

wherein said transmission unit is operable to transmit, depending on the determined at least one packet stream parameter, either an extended update packet containing information about the irregular change if the determined at least one packet stream parameter does not fulfill a predetermined condition; or

wherein said transmission unit is operable to transmit an extended non-update packet containing information about the irregular change if the determined at least one packet stream parameter does not fulfill the predetermined condition; and

wherein the extended non-update packet is not used to update the context.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the packet stream parameter is the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said apparatus further comprises a unit for entering a context update phase if the number of packets sent since the last update phase is larger than the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the maximum number of consecutive packet loss is estimated by extracting a sequence number from a received non-acknowledgment message and comparing the extracted sequence number with the current sequence number.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the number of extended update packets is set dependent on the packet stream parameter.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said control unit determining the at least one packet stream parameter is operable to obtain the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said apparatus further comprises a unit for comparing the maximum number of consecutive

packet loss and the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid, and transmitting extended update packets only if the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid is larger than the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid is estimated by checking a RTP Payload Type field and accessing a codec look-up table.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid has been estimated by retrieving observed packet stream properties.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said apparatus further comprises a unit for applying a safety factor to the determined at least one packet stream parameter.